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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 643rd meeting, on 11 October 1990)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

H.E. Mr. Vere C. Bird, Sr., Prime Minister

[Original: English]

In his report of 1 July 1990 (A/44/960), the Secretary-General observed that South Africa had reached the threshold of such a new era and that the political process on which it had embarked held encouraging prospects leading to the dismantlement of apartheid. The process was aided further by formal contacts such as the Groote Schuur and Pretoria meetings between the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Government of South Africa; both resulted in joint communiqués, which reaffirmed the participants' intentions to accelerate the removal of obstacles to negotiations to ensure the goal of racial equality for South Africa's black majority.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda welcomed the unbanning of ANC and 32 other organizations, as well as the lifting of restrictions on hundreds of freedom fighters. We are indeed heartened by these developments. However, we are keenly aware that there are still prisoners of conscience languishing in South African jails; caution is therefore urged before the process of change in South Africa is labelled as truly "irreversible".

A few have urged the world community to be practical and to nurture the future; we must not, however, be unprincipled and forget the past. Even if it is assumed that the South African Government's stated commitment to democracy is "irreversible", there is no guarantee that this commitment will achieve, by itself, the speedy dissolution of the evil system of apartheid. The "pillars of apartheid" - the Group Areas Act, the Land Act, the Population Registration Act - have not yet been removed. Violence now plagues certain parts of South Africa; and there is a probability that a "hidden hand" is at work. In the province of Natal the threat of black fratricide looms large. Extreme right wing white vigilantes, who see their privileged positions crumbling and complain that change is coming too swiftly, aided and abetted by significant elements in Pretoria's security establishment, have combined in a deadly alliance to fan the flames of black-on-black violence.

Thus, as we observe this Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, we are reminded that international economic sanctions against the racist regime in South Africa goaded President de Klerk into implementing some changes. We call upon the international community to maintain the pressure on the South African Government to ensure that it keeps its promises to repatriate all political exiles and to release all political prisoners.

BANGLADESH

Government of Bangladesh

[Original: English]

On this auspicious Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government and people of Bangladesh strongly reaffirm their total and unflinching support to the struggle of the people of South Africa.

We eagerly await the day when not just the prisoners but the entire oppressed populace of South Africa will enjoy the fruits of freedom.

We remain confident that the heroic people of South Africa will soon achieve their political, social and economic emancipation.

BOLIVIA

H.E. Mr. Carlos Iturralde, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship

[Original: Spanish]

As we observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I have the honour to reaffirm the support of the people and Government of Bolivia for the principles contained in the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixteenth special session.

In this context, I offer my wishes for the speedy attainment of a democratic, non-racial South Africa in which the criminal and shameful system of apartheid is abolished and in which there is no room for arbitrary states of emergency which grant impunity to "security organizations" in respect of the treatment of individuals who are "guilty" only of claiming their status as human beings.

BURKINA FASO

Captain Blaise Compaoré, President of the Front Populaire, Head of State, Head of Government

[Original: French]

On 11 October, the anniversary of the adoption in 1963 of resolution 1881 (XVIII) by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the international community observes the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

On this occasion, the people of Burkina Faso and their political leaders, the Front Populaire, like all peace-loving peoples who value justice, lift up their voices to demand the unconditional release of all those who are imprisoned,

detained or arbitrarily subjected to various restrictions on their freedom for their opposition to the policy of apartheid.

This observance on 11 October is the ideal occasion for reaffirming the support of Burkina Faso for the United Nations which, since its establishment, has continually demonstrated unflagging interest in the question of human rights in South Africa.

In the light of the actions and support of the United Nations and of the members of the international community, the people of Burkina Faso and the revolutionary Government of Burkina Faso welcome the positive turn of events, reflected, since February 1990, in the adoption of such measures as the release of Nelson Mandela and certain other political prisoners and the legalization of ANC. In their eyes, the current development of the socio-political situation in South Africa is a first indication of the coming triumph of law and justice over apartheid.

They thus appeal to the South African authorities to be clear-sighted and yield to reality. The trend in international relations in our time demands the adoption of more radical measures in support of democracy and political prisoners.

With a view to fulfilling the hope now harboured by the black people of South Africa, whose sufferings all stem from the colour of their skin, their opposition to injustice and their desire to live in peace in their own country in a democratic, non-racial society, Burkina Faso issues a solemn appeal to the international community to maintain the pressure with a view to achieving the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Deeply convinced that the logic of apartheid will bring on its own destruction, the people of Burkina Faso and their political leaders assure their fellow people, the South Africans, of Burkina Faso's unfailing support in the heroic struggle they are waging for the conquest of all their inalienable rights.

Reiterating its support for the conclusions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixteenth special session, Burkina Faso maintains that "... all men and all women have the right and duty to participate in their own government, as equal members of society, and that no individual or group of individuals has any right to govern others without their democratic consent".

CHILE

H.E. Mr. Edmundo Vargas Carreno, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

As we mark the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish to reiterate the commitment by the Government and people of Chile to all causes whose objective is to dignify the human being and permanently eliminate whatever might diminish him.

In this spirit, we join in the outright rejection of any form of discrimination between men and appeal for an immediate end to the system of apartheid, the chief cause of the injustices occurring in southern Africa.

DENMARK

On behalf of the Nordic countries

[Original: English]

The Nordic countries have consistently and strongly repudiated the apartheid system in South Africa. They have repeatedly expressed their profound concern over the fate of political prisoners and detainees.

The Nordic countries are determined to continue their active efforts to contribute to the abolition of apartheid and to the introduction of a democratic non-racial society in South Africa.

For the first time in the annual observance of the Day of Solidarity with the Political Prisoners of South Africa, we have reason for some optimism.

Significant and positive developments have begun in South Africa, holding out hope that profound changes are now within reach. The unbanning of political parties and movements in South Africa, the substantial lifting of the state of emergency, the suspension of the death penalty, and the release of a number of political prisoners, among these Mr. Nelson Mandela, are all improvements in the human rights situation in South Africa.

A positive process has been set in motion in South Africa. Much, however, remains to be done.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in South Africa requires the complete abolishment of the apartheid system.

A large number of political prisoners have not yet been released. The Nordic countries urge the South African Government to ensure the speedy implementation of the agreement reached in late August with ANC on the release of political prisoners and the return of political exiles.

EGYPT

H.E. Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President

[Original: Arabic]

On the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I am happy to address to you, on behalf of the people and Government of Egypt, an expression of esteem for the struggle of the fraternal people of South Africa for their legitimate social and political rights. For many long years, this great African people has demonstrated its ability to stand fast, to struggle and to adhere firmly to the fundamental principles of human rights. The forces of racist oppression have been unable to quench the resolve embodied in the struggle of its leader, Nelson Mandela, whose recent release represents the beginning of hope that the sun of justice and freedom will rise over the region of southern Africa and that the release of political detainees will continue and will enable all patriotic forces to participate in the reshaping of political and economic life in this part of the African continent.

We are observing alertly and with interest the ongoing developments in South Africa and the dialogue which has begun in preparation for the constitutional reform process. We hope that this process will continue and will be accorded the necessary impetus to lead to the restoration to the deprived majority in South Africa of its usurped rights.

A democratic, non-racist society in South Africa that is brought into being through dialogue is the only way to restore security and stability. The experience of the odious past has confirmed that limiting security and freedom to certain individual segments of the people has led only to the outbreak of violence and the undermining of stability in southern Africa as a whole.

I should like to address to you, and through you to the Special Committee against Apartheid, our appreciation for the effective role performed by the Committee, since its establishment, in defending a just cause, informing world public opinion of the enormity of the problem and mobilizing international forces behind the struggle of our brothers in southern Africa.

GHANA

H.E. Flt.-Lt. Jerry John Rawlings, Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council

[Original: English]

On this solemn day of solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana and on my own behalf, to express gratitude to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid for its leading role in focusing world attention on the evils of apartheid, particularly the plight of South Africans imprisoned for their heroic struggle to bring freedom, justice and dignity to their land of birth.

The interplay of persistent internal and international pressures, exemplified by the unanimous adoption of the declaration on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixteenth special session has forced the racist regime finally to take initial steps, which, if faithfully pursued, could, hopefully, lead to the eradication of apartheid in South Africa. The release of some political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, the lifting of bans and restrictions on anti-apartheid organizations, the lifting of the state of emergency in some areas of the country and the ongoing talks on the future of South Africa are indeed positive developments.

However, the continued imprisonment of a large number of political activists, the circumscription of political activities of the unbanned anti-apartheid organizations, the continued retention of major apartheid laws like the Internal Security Act, the reported arrest and detention of political exiles and the reported fueling of intra-African violence by the South African security forces raise serious and fundamental questions about the sincere commitment of the South African Government to the dismantling of apartheid.

It is, therefore, important that, on this solemn day, the international community should reaffirm its unflinching support for all the efforts of the United Nations, including the role of the Special Committee against Apartheid, in maintaining the current pressure on South Africa until apartheid is completely eradicated. We call, in this connection, for the release of all political prisoners and detainees, the freedom of the unbanned anti-apartheid organizations to carry on their political activities, the cessation of all political trials and political executions and the removal of all troops from the townships.

I should like to use this occasion to salute the memory of all who have made heroic sacrifices for the elimination of apartheid. In the same vein, I should like to pay a well-deserved tribute to the courage and the determination of all who are incarcerated in apartheid jails.

Finally, permit me, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana, to congratulate the Chairman and the members of the Special Committee against Apartheid for their continued useful roles in the struggle against apartheid and to reassure the Committee of Ghana's support in all its endeavours.

GUINEA

H.E. General Lansana Conte, Chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN), President of the Republic

[Original: French]

It is my duty to convey to you the sincere congratulations of the people and Government of Guinea on the occasion of the historic Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. While welcoming the efforts on the part of the Pretoria authorities, which have resulted in the release of Nelson Mandela, at the same time we demand the unconditional release of all other political prisoners, the

lifting of the state of emergency still imposed in Natal and the abolition of all repressive laws still in force in South Africa. Those are steps which form part of the process which must inevitably lead to the systematic dismantling of the shameful policy of apartheid, in order to achieve an egalitarian, democratic and non-racial society in South Africa. The Republic of Guinea, as a founder member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, solemnly honours the memory of the many heroes, known and unknown, who have been called upon to shed their blood as the price of the triumph of freedom and equality. I would also reaffirm my country's determined resolve to increase its efforts to achieve the practical implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly in December 1989, at its sixteenth special session.

GUYANA

Government of Guyana

[Original: English]

On this Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners it is with satisfaction that we acknowledge the release from incarceration of that country's most illustrious and distinguished prisoner who did not allow himself to be emasculated politically during his more than a quarter-century of imprisonment. We salute Mr. Nelson Mandela, the very embodiment of black aspirations not only in South Africa but in the diaspora.

We recognize, too, the release of other prisoners who are also committed to the struggle for a South Africa free of the iniquitous system of apartheid.

Furthermore, we are only too aware that those prisoners in Namibia, the former outpost of apartheid, now enjoy their freedom. Namibia is an independent, sovereign State and a proud member of the international community.

At the same time, we note the steps being taken to move the process along in South Africa to the complete eradication of apartheid.

But we cannot be blind to the fact that several persons still remain imprisoned for offences no greater than their zeal to see their dream for a new South Africa realized. Furthermore, efforts continue to be made to have others incarcerated for their continuing struggle on behalf of their oppressed brothers.

Guyana renews its solidarity with those who want to see apartheid ended, and ended speedily; and calls upon the authorities in Pretoria to ensure that justice is accorded those stalwarts for the black cause who now languish in South African prisons.

INDONESIA

H.E. Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish to extend on behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia our resolute support for and continuing solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa for equality, justice and human dignity.

Exactly eight months ago today, Indonesia lauded Mr. Nelson Mandela's historic walk to freedom. Having languished in prison for 27 years, his release not only signified but also rejuvenated the spirit of South Africa's men, women and children and all of mankind that his unflagging courage and dedicated life-long effort towards the universal quest for fundamental rights will ultimately triumph over the rising tide of injustices perpetrated by the racist regime. Yet, scores of others are still incarcerated under various pretexts. The racist regime has ignored repeated demands by the international community for their release and for an end to persecution, sham trials and detention without trials. Such policies do not in any way contribute to the building of trust and confidence, which are the essential components for the path to the total eradication of the abhorrent system of racial separation and discrimination. We therefore call upon the minority regime to release unconditionally all political prisoners and to guarantee the safe return of political exiles.

Recent events in South Africa grant us cause for grave concern. Indonesia strongly condemns the escalated violence and the ceaseless police brutality that has resulted in yet another tragic chapter to the historical record of the strife-torn country. To initiate any genuine process of dialogue, however, it is imperative that the international community compel the South Africa Government to implement profound and irreversible changes to eradicate the evil system of apartheid and in its place to work towards the creation of a democratic state with equal rights and opportunities under its new Constitution for the people of South Africa. Indeed in the present climate, it is more than evident that hollow words, token gestures and cosmetic reforms can no longer endure against the forces of liberty and justice. Indonesia is convinced that the only effective and speedy method to achieve total eradication of apartheid is to compel the Pretoria regime to take the more fundamental steps of revoking the bulk of its repressive security legislation, freeing all political prisoners and engaging in a genuine negotiating process with the authentic leaders of the South African people. For that purpose, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations must be imposed on that regime.

Finally, the Republic of Indonesia avails itself of this solemn occasion to express its profound gratitude to the Special Committee against Apartheid for its tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to the goal of dismantling this odious system. We reiterate our unswerving support and full cooperation to the Committee in pursuit of this objective.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Original: English]

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its satisfaction over the realization of part of the objectives of the struggle of black people of South Africa, leading to the release of some political prisoners, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, the leader of this legitimate struggle, and calls for the release of all political prisoners in South AFrica.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also expresses its solidarity with the political prisoners and emphasizes, once more, its clear and long-standing position on its full support for the struggle of the people of South Africa against racial discrimination and for its continuation until the materialization of all their trampled rights in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, as well as the realization of the concept of one man one vote. We pray to the God Almighty for the rapid and unconditional release of all political prisoners in South Africa, the victory of the legitimate struggle of its people and the establishment of peace, tranquillity and peaceful coexistence in that country through the efforts of all free-minded nations.

ISRAEL

H.E. Mr. David Levy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government of Israel expresses its hope and conviction that the political process begun in South Africa will lead to the release of all persons detained or arrested for their participation in the struggle to end apartheid.

ITALY

On behalf of the Twelve States members of the European Community

[Original: English]

The Twelve States members of the European Community welcome the opportunity provided by this Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners to reiterate their total rejection of apartheid, an abhorrent system of institutionalized racism that they have constantly and unequivocally condemned and to which they remain resolutely opposed.

The Twelve associate themselves with the objectives of this day, strongly expressing their solidarity with those who have been deprived of their freedom because of their opposition to apartheid.

They are therefore glad to note that substantial progress has been achieved in this respect since 1989.

The Twelve welcome the fact that a number of political prisoners have already been released, among them Nelson Mandela, a courageous leader who has fought tirelessly against apartheid even from his prison cell during almost three decades of captivity.

They also welcome other important steps taken in order to create the climate necessary for negotiations on constitutional reform, including the unbanning of political parties and movements, the substantial lifting of the state of emergency, the suspension of the death penalty, as well as the suspension of armed struggle on the part of ANC.

The Twelve learned with keen satisfaction of the agreement reached in August 1990 as a result of the political dialogue initiated between the South African Government and ANC, providing for a phased release of political prisoners and for the return of political exiles and declaring that the way was now open to proceed towards negotiations on a new constitution.

Much more work is needed before the apartheid system is dismantled and a new, united, democratic, non-racial South Africa is created. But the Twelve believe that events are now clearly moving in the right direction. They urge all parties in South Africa to commit themselves now to peaceful negotiations and call upon the South African Government to take all steps necessary to ensure a successful outcome of those negotiations.

On the occasion of this Day of Solidarity, the Twelve wish to reiterate their call for the speedy release of all political prisoners.

JAMAICA

Government of Jamaica

[Original: English]

Today, as we observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners we note the encouraging developments which have occurred in South Africa during the year.

On 11 February 1990, we all watched with great joy as Nelson Mandela walked proudly through the gates of Victor Verster Prison, ending 27 years as a political prisoner in South Africa. A number of other persons who had spent most of their lives unjustly imprisoned have also been released and support Nelson Mandela in the efforts being made to end the abhorrent system of apartheid.

However, releasing political prisoners on a selective basis is not enough. The South African Government must now release all political prisoners, an act that will contribute to creating the climate necessary to the conduct of serious negotiations to bring about profound and irreversible changes in South Africa.

At this time, when the world has so recently focused on the plight of children, it is of particular concern that children are among the political detainees in South Africa.

The Government of Jamaica urges the Government of South Africa to implement fully the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1989, including paragraph 6 (a) which calls upon the Government of South Africa to "release all political prisoners and detainees unconditionally and refrain from imposing any restrictions on them".

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

[Original: Arabic]

Thursday, 11 October 1990, is the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, and it is in implementation of the 1976 United Nations General Assembly resolution under which 11 October each year was designated as a day of solidarity with such prisoners in order to remind the peoples of the world that there is a people that continues to be subjected to the most heinous forms of discrimination, injustice and oppression. There can be no doubt that the great Jamahiriya is in the forefront of those States which support the cause of liberation in Africa and elsewhere and which stand together with the noble freedom fighters in their struggle against the policy of racial discrimination in South Africa.

It has continued to support all efforts for the elimination of the apartheid regime in response to the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Organization of African Unity. The great Jamahiriya, in affirming its continued support for the cause of liberation in Africa, calls upon the international community:

To make an earnest endeavour to provide greater material and moral support to the people of South Africa in its struggle to eliminate the policy of apartheid;

To impose an economic embargo on the racist Government in South Africa until such time as it complies with the will of the international community;

And to bring pressure to bear on the Governments in question to release all the political prisoners languishing in the prisons of apartheid.

The great Jamahiriya reaffirms its continued support and backing for the heroic struggle being waged by the people of South Africa under the leadership of the national liberation movements in that country, principally the African National Congress and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, and pledges that it will continue to stand by it until such time as the detested policy of apartheid is eliminated and its complete freedom is realized in the establishment of a democratic State in accordance with the will of the citizens of this African country.

The great Jamahiriya strongly condemns the injustice and oppression to which the people of South Africa is subjected and the sufferings inflicted on freedom fighters in the prisons of the racist South African regime. It further condemns, in the strongest terms, the mass arrests of black citizens and the ongoing state of emergency maintained by the apartheid regime in South Africa against black Africans.

The great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya must not fail, on this occasion, to call attention to the dangerous character of links and relations between the racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine, where the Palestinian people is suffering the most heinous forms of repression and arbitrariness at the hands of Zionist occupiers who are pursuing the same racist policy as that adopted by the racist regime in South Africa.

MALAYSIA

Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion, dedicated to the observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of Malaysia, to reaffirm our unswerving commitment to and full support for the oppressed people of South Africa, in particular the political prisoners, in their legitimate and just struggle against apartheid.

It is with a deep sense of sorrow and frustration that after 14 years of the annual observance of this day, many political prisoners still languish in prisons in South Africa under dehumanizing and deplorable conditions. While we welcome the release of Mr. Mandela and some political prisoners, there are about 3,000 more political prisoners still awaiting their freedom. We call upon the South African regime to honour their commitment to release unconditionally all remaining political prisoners in line with the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus on 14 December 1989 and to grant indemnities for political offences to people inside and outside South Africa. The South African regime must allow all persons imprisoned, interned or subjected to other restrictions for their opposition to apartheid to return home in safety and dignity. We also call upon the South African regime to cease all political trials and political executions.

While Malaysia takes note that there have been important developments in creating a climate conducive for negotiations such as the unbanning of ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and other anti-apartheid groups, the partial lifting of the state of emergency, the renunciation of the armed struggle by ANC and the ongoing talks between ANC and the South African regime, further measures need to be undertaken by the South African regime to implement the profound and irreversible changes called for in the United Nations Declaration. Until such changes occur, the international community must continue to exert both pressure and sanctions on the South African regime. The United Nations General Assembly recently, through its consensus resolution 44/244 adopted on 17 September 1990, called upon the South African regime to take without delay all the steps stipulated in the Declaration. It also urged the international community and the Secretary-General to provide all possible assistance to facilitate the reintegration of released political prisoners, and Malaysia stands ready to extend our support to this endeavour.

Malaysia wishes to express its profound concern at the spate of violence in Natal and in the townships near Johannesburg, which had led to bloodshed and the loss of lives. The South African regime must take urgent and appropriate actions to put an immediate end to the violence, including to deal with questions relating to police complicity and white extremist involvement. The South African regime must dismantle the apartheid structures and repeal all repressive legislation to ensure free political activity. We also call upon all parties concerned to contribute to the establishment of a climate free of violence.

Today, as the international community marks the observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, Malaysia once again would like to pay tribute to all heroic freedom fighters of South Africa for their valiant and just struggle who have sacrificed their life and liberty to regain their freedom, equality and human dignity. It is my fervent hope that this would be the last observance of this day by the international community for this time next year, we should welcome the birth of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

PAKISTAN

H.E. Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Prime Minister

[Original: English]

Today Pakistan joins the international community in observing the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. The South African freedom fighters, incarcerated by the Pretoria regime, have borne the brunt of the abominable policy of apartheid being practised brutally by the South African minority government. However, their sufferings have not gone in vain and have made a valuable contribution to the struggle against the inhuman system of racial discrimination imposed by the Pretoria regime.

Being adherents of Islam, which prescribes equality of all mankind, the people of Pakistan find apartheid repugnant. As such, Islam has always condemned the policy and practice of apartheid being pursued by the racist regime of South Africa. In accordance with the United Nations resolutions, Pakistan has consistently enforced sanctions against all contacts with South Africa.

The valiant struggle of the freedom fighters of South Africa and the pressure of international public opinion have already forced the racist Pretoria regime to release Mr. Nelson Mandela, lift the ban on political organizations and enter into a dialogue with ANC. It is our firm belief that the dismantling of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule in South Africa are inevitable since the irrepressible urge of the people for liberty and freedom cannot be fettered for long.

We salute the courage of the South African political prisoners and freedom fighters and are confident that their heroic sacrifices would soon result in the eradication of the scourge of apartheid. The Government of Pakistan, today, reaffirms its full, unswerving solidarity with the South African people. We call upon the Pretoria regime to release immediately all political prisoners held by it and agree to the total abolition of apartheid and the establishment of majority rule in South Africa.

PERU

Mr. Luis Marchand Stens, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government of Peru reaffirms its steadfast support for the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa against the shameful apartheid regime.

Peru wishes to emphasize that the essential aspirations of the South African people cannot be achieved through the modification or reform of the apartheid regime, but only through its complete elimination. Peru therefore notes with concern that the fundamental pillars of this nefarious regime remain in place. Such a situation can offer no guarantee of the democratization of South African society, and the international community must remain firm in its commitment to sanctions against the Government of South Africa.

While acknowledging the importance of the dialogue initiated between the Pretoria Government and the national liberation movements, one of the most noteworthy results of which has been the release of the illustrious African leader, Nelson Mandela, and other political prisoners, we should remember that yet other prisoners remain unjustly incarcerated on account of their ideas and their political activity and the South African regime has not yet set in motion the necessary procedures for their immediate release.

At this present time when processes of democratization are in evidence throughout the world the people and Government of Peru consider the ethical imperative against such an inhuman and anachronistic system to be more pressing than ever and they consequently reaffirm their moral and political support for the efforts being made to eliminate apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination in order to make possible the achievement of a more just and egalitarian society in South Africa.

PHILIPPINES

H.E. Mr. Raul S. Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

The process of change has been set in motion in South Africa. The international community now dares to hope that soon that country will transform itself into a united, democratic and non-racial society. This year, the South African regime unbanned political organizations, released some political prisoners, including Mr. Nelson Mandela, and initiated "the talks about talks" with the representatives of ANC.

However, South African jails have not all been emptied of men and women of conscience who have been defying the apartheid system. On this Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Philippines raises its voice once again to draw attention to their plight.

The continued detention of political prisoners cannot help create the necessary climate conducive to negotiations on the future of South Africa. As called for in the declaration on apartheid and its destructive consequences, the South African regime should, among others, release all political prisoners and detainees unconditionally and refrain from imposing any restrictions on them. Only then can free political discussion take place, with the South African people themselves deciding on the fate of their country.

SIERRA LEONE

Haji Dr. Abdul Karim Koroma, M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government and people of Sierra Leone express their continued support for the cause of political equality and social justice for which they remain incarcerated.

It is our hope that the release of ANC Vice-President Mr. Nelson Mandela will now lead to the release of all such political prisoners, thus contributing to an improvement in the atmosphere in which the ongoing negotiations between the South African Government and Black organizations could progress.

However, we must again register our concern over the continuing violence in the townships, which now threatens to mar seriously the emerging spirit for a negotiated solution to the question of apartheid. The maintenance of such a situation panders only to the worse instincts of apartheid's supporters and seeks to convince its perpetrators that change is futile and impossible.

As we observe this Day of Solidarity, I wish, on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, to commend the fine work that the Special Committee against Apartheid continues to perform and to pledge our full cooperation in bringing an end to the scourge of apartheid.

SUDAN

H.E. Lieutenant General Omer Hassan Ahmed El Bashir, President of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation

[Original: English]

The observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, in 1990, is indeed an appropriate opportunity we would very much like to avail ourselves of, in order to express our deep appreciation for the untiring efforts exerted by the international community in general, and the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in particular, in the struggle for the total eradication of the obnoxious system of apartheid in South Africa.

Since the observance of this day in 1989, we note with satisfaction that the period that followed has witnessed some significant and positive developments, both inside and outside South Africa. In December 1989, the United Nations General Assembly at its sixteenth special session adopted by consensus a Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences for Southern Africa, which provides the principles and guidelines for a negotiated settlement in South Africa. In February 1990, Mr. Nelson Mandela, among other political prisoners, was released after 27 years of incarceration. 1990 also witnessed in South Africa the unbanning of a number of anti-apartheid organizations, including ANC and PAC; the repeal of certain emergency regulations; and the already-initiated talks between the leaders of ANC and the apartheid regime. In September 1990, the United Nations General Assembly adopted its resolution 44/244, in pursuance of the above-mentioned resolution.

Positive as it may appear, however, the prevailing situation in South Africa still indicates that fundamental elements of the basic pillars of the system of apartheid are still in force.

On this solemn occasion, therefore, it is imperative on us to reaffirm our continued and unfailing support for the General Assembly Declaration of December 1989 and the September 1990 resolution mentioned above. On the other hand, we urge the international community to continue to assist the process towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in South Africa, by maintaining the necessary pressure aimed, in the final analysis, at the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic society in South Africa.

While solemnly observing the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, victims of apartheid, at this critical juncture in time, human dictates and a sense of responsibility make it incumbent upon us to draw the attention of the international community to the perpetual massacres of the Arab population committed by the occupying Zionist Power, Israel, and its agents in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories. In the light of that, we call upon the international community to stand up to its duties, in order to ensure protection for the Palestinian and other Arab civilian population in the Palestine and other Arab occupied territories, pursuant to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

SURINAME

H.E. Mr. Ramsewak Shankar, President

[Original: English]

The date of 11 October 1990 marks the fourteenth annual observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.

It is encouraging to note that the tides of change are also sweeping across the political shores of apartheid-stricken South Africa. Nelson Mandela's triumphant release from prison was a dramatic evidence of these tides. Much more needs to be done, however, many more South African braves are languishing in South African prisons on account of their opposition to apartheid.

Their immediate and unconditional release too must be realized, to which end effective and constructive pressure of the international community must unrelentlessly be continued.

On this solemn occasion, I should therefore like to reaffirm the solidarity of the Government and people of Suriname with all political prisoners and detainees in South Africa, as well as with those who sacrificed their life in the struggle against apartheid and for the establishment of a non-racial democratic society in South Africa.

THAILAND

H.E. Mr. Subin Pinkayan, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the people of Thailand, to reiterate our support for the South African people in their struggle for the total eradication of apartheid and the restoration of their fundamental human rights.

We have followed with interest the developments in South Africa, and, therefore, welcome the successful outcome of the second meeting between the South African Government and ANC held at Pretoria on 6 August 1990, during which they agreed that a plan would be drawn up for the release of ANC-related prisoners as well as the granting of indemnity to groups of persons in a phased manner. It is our fervent hope that this process of releasing political prisoners and detainees will be accomplished at the earliest possible date.

We also wish to urge the South African Government to accelerate the process of change, in particular to repeal all legislations designed to circumscribe political activities and to end the state of emergency throughout the country, in order to create a political atmosphere conducive to normal negotiations with the black majority with a view to dismantling apartheid completely and peacefully.

UGANDA

H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

[Original: English]

As you observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, I wish on behalf of the Government and people of Uganda and, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to congratulate most warmly all members of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

You have in a very diligent manner kept the international community focused on thousands of innocent citizens, especially Blacks, who have been thrown into prisons by the brutal apartheid regime of South Africa. Those innocent men, women and children have received jail sentences not because they have committed any crime but simply because they have taken a principled stand against the injustices and racial discrimination of the system of apartheid.

The non-Whites in South Africa are all prisoners of the racist regime. They do not participate in the processes of the Government. They have no right to choose where to live, where to play or where to study. Even those like Comrade Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of ANC, Walter Sisulu and many others who, thanks to international pressure have been released after spending the most productive part of their lives in prisons, are not yet free. They cannot exercise their birth right to vote for a Government of their choice.

I therefore call upon the international community to intensify pressure upon the racist regime until the evil system of apartheid is totally dismantled. It is only when this is done that the majority of the people in the country will be free from both the physical prisons of apartheid and political captivity of its nefarious system to build a united democratic and non-racial society.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

H.E. Mr. B. W. Mkapa, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: English]

The release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners in February 1990 was welcomed the world over as the realization of a goal long demanded by the international community. It raised the hopes of all of us that the apartheid regime would soon release all the remaining political prisoners and detainees and thus begin to create the conditions necessary for a negotiated end to the inhuman system of apartheid. Regrettably, this has not happened. A large number of political prisoners and detainees remain incarcerated in apartheid jails. By most accounts well over 3,000 political prisoners and detainees are still languishing in the regime's jails or are otherwise detained or restricted. We are concerned that instead of releasing them unconditionally as the world community has always demanded, the regime is dragging its feet, using all sorts of tactics to appear to be moving, while in fact it is not.

This is all the more reason why the international community must demand full and speedy implementation of all the provisions of the consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, and call for the strict maintenance of pressures on the regime to eradicate apartheid. Those who have relaxed sanctions can now clearly see what harm this relaxation is beginning to have.

On this Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania join the international community in reiterating their demand for the unconditional release of all political prisoners still languishing in apartheid jails.

VENEZUELA

H.E. Mr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, Minister for Foreign Affairs

[Original: Spanish]

Once again, we meet to observe the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. On this solemn occasion I have the honour to reiterate the indomitable solidarity of the Government and people of Venezuela with the heroic struggle of the South African people for freedom and dignity. In my country, human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are issues of particular significance and these rights are fully in force. Accordingly, the Venezuelan Government promotes and upholds these rights in their totality and interdependence.

We should like to confirm to the peoples of southern Africa that Venezuela rejects any type of discrimination, whether based on religion, sex, race or any other ground, and it rejects the practices institutionalized by the shameful apartheid system, which constitute a continuing violation of the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

My country categorically condemns the practice of apartheid and our actions in the international sphere reflect our firm rejection of all forms of racial discrimination existing in any part of the world. In this way we prove our commitment to a series of norms established in our Constitution and in our laws and also in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, to which instruments we are a Party.

The international community has witnessed a recent evolution that is favourable to the establishment of a democratic and multi-racial society in South Africa. Nevertheless, although there has been some easing of the political climate, the situation continues to be a source of concern. It is necessary to keep up the pressure for a dialogue, for a political evolution which will lay the bases for a truly multi-racial society that will mean the total eradication of the apartheid system.

Venezuela pays warm tribute to all the South African patriots who have laid down their lives for the sake of a more just society, to its freedom movement headed by the African National Congress, and to the others who have not faltered in their struggle, such as the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, the Labour Party, the Azanian People's Organization and the South African Indian National Congress. To those fighters who are imprisoned, to those who are persecuted and whose civil and human rights are violated, to all of them and to the South African people Venezuela reiterates its unconditional and complete support.

II. MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

[Original: English]

Amnesty International welcomes this opportunity to submit information to the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. We welcome the attention given by the Special Committee to the plight of victims of human rights violations in South Africa. We hope that this will contribute significantly to maintaining international focus upon the continuing detention, torture and ill-treatment of political activists and others in South Africa.

During the proceedings at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa, held in December 1989, Amnesty International urged the South African Government to take a number of steps immediately in order to improve protection of, and respect for human rights. In particular, Amnesty International called upon the Government:

(a) To release immediately and unconditionally all prisoners of conscience and to release all other political detainees unless they were to stand trial promptly and fairly on recognizably criminal charges;

(b) To repeal legislation providing for indefinite incommunicado detention without trial and to bring all laws fully into accordance with the requirements of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights instruments;

(c) To state publicly and unequivocally that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners will not be tolerated and to establish an appropriate mechanism to ensure that all allegations of torture or ill-treatment are subject to independent and impartial investigation, with those responsible for such violations being brought to justice.

Despite some progress regarding the release of political prisoners as a result of preliminary negotiations between the Government and ANC, scant progress has been made towards eliminating serious human rights violations resulting from the existence and use of the powers of detention without trial. On the contrary, the security forces remain equipped with an awesome array of powers allowing them to incarcerate people without charge or trial for varying periods, including indefinitely, and often beyond the reach of the courts and independent monitors. At the same time and undoubtedly as a consequence, reports of ill-treatment, torture and deaths in custody have continued to be received by Amnesty International.

A disturbing element in the pattern of detentions this year has been the frequent and vigorous use by the police of their powers to detain people indefinitely, incommunicado and in solitary confinement, under the terms of section 29 of the Internal Security Act (74 of 1982). Between 1 January and early October 1990 at least 183 people had been held under this provision for various periods of time, of whom 126 were still being held as of 9 October. The law grants the police powers which render them virtually unaccountable for their actions. Among the dozens who have fallen victim to it are internationally known members of ANC, local community activists and a human rights lawyer. Cases include the following:

(a) Thabiso Radebe, a member of the Thembisa Youth Congress who was arrested at Thembisa Hospital, Kempton Park, Johannesburg, where he was being treated for extensive injuries inflicted on him by a group of people who attacked him on 15 June 1990, the second violent assault inflicted on him in the space of two months. He vanished from the hospital on 18/19 June. Seeking his whereabouts, his lawyer was informed by the police that they were holding him under section 50 of the Internal Security Act, allowing him to be held in administrative detention,

without charge, for 14 days, but permitting access to him by lawyers and family members. However, when his lawyer attempted to visit him, the police refused access on the grounds that the detainee was now held under section 29. Thabiso Radebe has suffered previous periods of detention without trial, notably under national state of emergency powers between 1986 and 1989. He was released under a restriction order in 1989 and went into hiding because of harassment and threats against his life. In late April 1990, after he had returned to live openly in his home township of Thembisa, he was attacked by a group of people who shot him in the stomach and left him for dead. The group reportedly included a person who is reputed to be an "Askari" - a name used for former members of the ANC military wing recruited to work for the South African security forces in units alleged to have carried out clandestine killings. Almost four months later, Thabiso Radebe is still held in section 29 custody. For a period in August he went on a hunger-strike apparently to protest his continuing detention without charge or trial.

(b) J. B. Sibanyoni, Chairman of the Ekangala Civic Association and Treasurer of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, who was arrested on 28 June 1990 at his home in Ekangala Township in the "homeland" of KwaNdebele. On the following day the police informed his lawyer that he was being held under the Criminal Procedure Act (51 of 1977), which requires the police either to release a suspect or to bring him or her before a court within 48 hours of arrest. When Mr. Sibanyoni's lawyer attempted to consult with him, the police terminated the consultation and denied further access on the grounds that Mr. Sibanyoni was being held under section 29. Since then Mr. Sibanyoni has been denied access to his lawyer and relatives. An urgent application brought in the South African Supreme Court in July for an order for his release was unsuccessful. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Sibanyoni was acting on behalf of Tshepo Matlala and Sello Mathebe, two young people who had sought his help, alleging that they were being taken to make a statement against their will before a magistrate at Mkobola Magistrate's Court in KwaNdebele. Tshepo Matlala and Sello Mathebe are currently in police custody under section 29.

(c) Yusuf Mahomed, a pharmacist who was arrested by the police on 19 August 1990 at Harding, Natal Province. He has been held since then under section 29. On 22 August, he was admitted to Johannesburg Hospital suffering from severe depression as a consequence of his detention conditions and the recent death of his father. He has attempted suicide on at least three occasions since his arrest, according to medical reports. Hospital medical doctors regard him as being gravely at risk were he to be further interrogated or returned to police cells. In early October 1990 lawyers succeeded in gaining an interim injunction from the Supreme Court prohibiting the police from visiting or interrogating Yusuf Mahomed in hospital - although he remains there under police guard and he is still denied access to his lawyer and relatives. On 16 October, the court will consider an application for his release from detention.

(d) Sathyandranath "Mac" Maharaj, a member of the National Executive Committee of ANC and of the South Africa Communist Party's Central Committee who was detained under section 29 on 25 July 1990. On 12 September he was admitted to St. Aidan's Hospital, Durban, reportedly suffering from a serious neck injury as a

result of ill-treatment at the hands of the police. In early August Mac Maharaj reportedly told ANC Deputy President, Nelson Mandela, in the presence of a senior police official, that he had been "banged around like hell", and had his head knocked against a wall by the police after his arrest. This alleged assault is said to have exacerbated an old injury which Mac Maharaj had suffered when he was tortured during detention in 1964. Mac Maharaj continues to be held under police guard in hospital and denied visits from his lawyer, private doctor and relatives. He has, however, managed to communicate his intention to lay a charge of assault against the police.

(e) Jabulani Sithole, a mathematics lecturer at the University of Zululand and active in ANC and the Lamontville Residents Association at Durban who was detained under the terms of section 29 in mid-July 1990. Mr. Sithole is an asthmatic and a paraplegic. He was detained without charge previously for approximately two-and-a-half years under the national state of emergency.

(f) Pravin Gordhan, a pharmacist and an executive member of the Natal Indian Congress who was detained under the terms of section 29 on 13 July 1990. As a result of information that Pravin Gordhan was being assaulted, his lawyers applied to the Supreme Court for an interdict restraining the police from assaulting him. Although the police initially denied the allegation of assault, when the case came before the Durban Supreme Court on 16 August 1990, the Minister of Law and Order and the police gave an undertaking that no further assaults would occur. Pravin Gordhan was detained previously under security legislation in 1981/82 and 1985. During his detention in 1982 he was admitted to the psychiatric ward of a Durban hospital. He later initiated a civil damage suit against the police for alleged assault while in detention. Pravin Gordhan suffers from a skin ailment, psoriasis. The police continue to deny him access to his lawyer and private doctor.

(g) Billy Nair, an executive member of the Natal Indian Congress and a member of the South African Communist Party's Central Committee who was detained under the terms of section 29 on 23 July 1990. In 1984 Billy Nair was released from 20 years' imprisonment for ANC activities. He was detained without charge from August to October 1985 and subsequently instituted legal proceedings against the police for alleged assault. Prior to this most recent detention he had undergone a serious operation on one of his legs. On 10 September 1990 the 60-year-old was admitted to St. Aidan's Hospital, Durban, apparently after suffering a heart attack in detention. While he was undergoing treatment in hospital, the police released him from detention without charge. During his detention the police allegedly subjected him to prolonged interrogation while keeping him standing, and to sleep deprivation.

(h) David Madurai, a youth and community activist with the United Democratic Front (UDF) who was detained between 16 January and 3 May 1990 under the terms of section 20. On 5 February 1990 the Supreme Court (Durban and Coast Local Division) issued an interim order restraining the Minister of Law and Order and the police from assaulting and/or threatening him by unlawful means. The order was made final on 22 February 1990 after the Court received evidence from a prison medical officer and a magistrate confirming allegations that the police had subjected David Madurai to beatings, partial suffocation and threats of electric shock torture while

stripped naked and held at C. R. Swart Square, the police headquarters in Durban. As a result of these assaults David Madurai required treatment in a Durban hospital. On 3 May he was released from section 29 detention and transferred to Durban Westville Prison awaiting trial on charges of sabotage, of wilfully causing an explosion, attempted murder and attempting to escape from custody. The prosecution withdrew all charges against him in court on 17 July 1990 and he was released.

(i) Donald Madisha, a 25-year-old who was arrested in Mahwelereng township, Potgietersrus, in the northern Transvaal on 16 January 1990. He was still in police custody under the terms of section 29 until his death, allegedly as a result of suicide, on about 31 May 1990. Throughout this nearly five-month period of incarceration without charge or trial, Donald Madisha was kept in solitary confinement, at a location unknown to his family or his lawyer, and denied access to anyone other than his interrogators. Donald Madisha is one of at least 14 people who have died under suspicious circumstances in police custody during the first nine months of 1990. In only one of these cases, that of Clayton Sizwe Sithole, who allegedly committed suicide on 27 January 1990 while in section 29 detention, has the Government ordered an independent, judicial inquiry into the circumstances.

During his inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Clayton Sizwe Sithole, Mr. Justice R. J. Goldstone referred to what he said were the "drastic" and "serious inroads" made into the normal rights and privileges of citizens by the provisions of section 29 of the Internal Security Act. A regional commissioner of police acknowledged to Judge Goldstone's inquiry that even the ostensible safeguards contained in regulations covering the treatment of section 29 detainees were not observed by the security police. The continuing serious allegations of assault and torture, and at least two deaths in section 29 custody this year serve to underscore the urgent need for the South African Government immediately to repeal legislative provisions allowing for indefinite incommunicado detention and to ensure that all members of the security forces are held accountable for human rights violations that they commit. In addition, Amnesty International believes the Government should institute a full, independent judicial inquiry into the persistent allegations of torture of detainees held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act and other provisions of the law, and bring to justice those police officers found to be responsible.

These and other appropriate measures are necessary, partly as a demonstration of good faith by the Government at this critical stage of the country's history, and equally importantly as a step towards regaining control over members of the security forces, who appear to have become a law unto themselves. A recent dramatic illustration of this state of lawlessness amongst those charged with responsibility for maintaining law and order occurred in the arrest and "disappearance" of John Fonono Mchunu, a member of the ANC's military wing. Mr. Mchunu "disappeared" on 5 September 1990 following his arrest in Durban apparently by a combined force of regular police and "Askaris". His family, finding the police uncooperative in their frantic search for their missing relative, made an application for a habeas corpus order in the Durban Supreme Court. During subsequent proceedings, it emerged that the police had taken John Fonono Mchunu and another man arrested with him, David Shezi, to King's Park Rugby Stadium where they interrogated them from early afternoon until nearly

midnight. David Scezi was released and threatened with rearrest if he revealed the whereabouts and circumstances of John Fonono Mchunu. The presiding judge commented that he found it "alarming" that the police should consider it proper to take people they wished to question to a stadium and question them until late at night, "to take them somewhere with no record of their having been booked in and nothing written in the occurrence book or any other official record of it". A further disturbing element in the story was the conflicting statements issued by the police about their involvement with and handling of John Fonono Mchunu's case. Police Liaison Officer Brigadier Leon Mellet publicly denied that an arrest had occurred. Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Taylor of the Durban Security Police admitted that they had arrested Mr. Mchunu and questioned him at the stadium and claimed that they had returned him that night to his home in Lamontville. A third senior police offical stated that after the interrogation Mr. Mchunu had been taken to a "safe place", as he had agreed to cooperate with the police, and that he had subsequently escaped. On about 23 or 24 September, John Fonono Mchunu took refuge in the United States Consulate at Durban. As a result of his allegations of abduction, assault and threats against his life if he failed to cooperate with the police in pointing out ANC members, the Durban Supreme Court issued a temporary interdict against the Minister of Law and Order, the South African Commissioner of Police and members of the forces under their control, restraining them from further assaulting John Fonono Mchunu.

On the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners and in the light of the continuing grave violations of human rights committed against political prisoners in South Africa, Amnesty International reiterates its appeal to the South African Government to act without delay to repeal legislation providing for indefinite incommunicado detention and to introduce full and effective safeguards to protect detainees from torture or ill-treatment and to ensure that critics and opponents of the Government are not subjected to extrajudicial execution.

COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

[Original: English]

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches reaffirms its support to the heroic struggle for liberation of the people of South Africa and remembers the sacrifice of thousands in that country in the cause of justice. On this occasion it specially pays tribute to the hundreds of political prisoners.

The Commission reiterates its position that all political prisoners in South Africa have to be released before meaningful negotiations can take place regarding the future of the country.

The Commission recalls on this occasion the commendable work of churches in South Africa in support of the families of the imprisoned and detained.

The Commission places on record its profound appreciation for the significant contribution of the Special Committee against Apartheid to the struggle for justice in South Africa.

CHILEAN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

[Original: Spanish]

To the people of South Africa, to their combatants and martyrs, on this International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners we send our revolutionary greetings to those who, armed solely with their consciences and their dignity, have fought and will continue to fight, with courage and commitment, against the Fascist repression.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

[Original: English]

The Women's International Democratic Federation, in reviewing the statement it presented in 1989 on the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, recognizes that progress in significant areas has been made internally and externally vis-à-vis the situation of the peoples struggling under the adverse consequences of apartheid in South Africa.

Dramatic evidence of the changing dynamics of the struggle against apartheid include Pretoria's symbolic releasing of Nelson Mandela, the most well-known political prisoner of modern-day history; the unbanning of democratic organizations; the lifting of the State of Emergency; and the independence of Namibia. The United Nations consensus Declaration on apartheid, the Lusaka statement and the Secretary-General's report (A/44/960) testify to the determination of the international community to push ahead in its efforts to rid the world of the abomination of apartheid.

The continuing dialogue between the de Klerk Government and the ANC delegation is still not taking place in a climate that is conducive to significant negotiations. The Draconian laws that constitute the "pillars of apartheid" are still solidly in place. The numbers of political prisoners in detention, on death row, under house arrest and being held without trial and the actions of the security forces and the "hidden hand" sinister machinations behind the violence in Natal speak loudly about the need for the international community represented by the Special Committee to continue with comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions. The Black majority in South Africa and the women and men of good conscience in South Africa make this appeal. The Women's International Democratic Federation asserts again its conviction that meaningful sanctions will help to overthrow apartheid and begin the process of restoring human rights to all who live in South Africa.

SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

[Original: English]

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee is inspired by the perspectives of the solution of the problem of the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. This has become possible thanks to the heroic struggle of the people of South Africa and broad international efforts to end apartheid. A special role belongs to the Special Committee against Apartheid, acting on the basis of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1989.

We note that many political prisoners of South Africa, first and foremost such as the outstanding leader N. Mandela, have been released. We recognize nevertheless that a number of other political detainees are still being kept in prisons, including such prominent figures as Comrade M. Maharaj, a member of the National Executive Committee of ANC. This means that there is still a lot to be done to clear the way to the solution of the problem.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee confirms its readiness to participate in the international campaign for the release of all political prisoners, for the elimination of apartheid and for settlement of the situation in South Africa. We call for the maintenance of economic and other sanctions against the South African Government as stipulated in the United Nations Declaration of December 1989.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee appeals to the Special Committee against Apartheid to use its high international influence and to increase its pressure on the South African Government for the sake of achieving the noble goal of the elimination of the apartheid system in that country.